



**August 15, 2016**

**Greetings students, parents and community members,**

The anticipation of the first day of school brings great excitement for our students, and I'm sure some parents in changing the summer routine. We have been working diligently over the summer to prepare engaging programming and polishing our buildings for a great start. We were able to meet many goals and milestones last year from budgeting, program analysis and staffing restructuring, in order to position our District to move forward. A few updates for you:

**2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS (a sampling from many!):**

- Bobby Riley (IAA) receives a National Distinguished Principal Award
- As members of the group Muslim Girls Making Change, BHS students competed in national slam poetry competition
- BTC 1 of 10 to win nationwide Career and Technical Education Makeover Challenge: \$20,000 and in-kind prizes to help build or renovate its MakerSpace
- BHS Scholars' Bowl Team State Champs and competed in national competition
- Louise Mongeon (IAA) named Vermont Affiliate School Nurse of the Year
- Burlington School Food Project receives \$100,000 USDA grant funds to implement a center of the plate project that focuses on making local beef accessible to all BSD Schools

**COMMUNITY INPUT ON FACILITIES PLAN**

Our school facilities are aging and it is crucial that we ensure that our buildings are accessible, safe and able to support a high-quality education for all Burlington students. The School District invites all members of the community to take part in a public process that will inform decisions about the facilities plan, including possible funding mechanisms.

**Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 PM**

Burlington High School Cafeteria, 52 Institute Road

RSVP, with any childcare needs, to Maryann Kalman: [mkalman@bsdvt.org](mailto:mkalman@bsdvt.org) or (802) 864-8474.

**(cont. on reverse)**

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**STRATEGIC PLANNING** (Visit [www.bsdt.org](http://www.bsdt.org) for details on this process.)

### *What has happened?*

Last spring, parents, staff, students, community organizations, business partners, state agencies, City Councilors and others reflected on BSD mission and values, generating input on priorities for multi-year strategic planning. In addition, a variety of stakeholder groups within the student body discussed what District priorities should look like over the next four years, including: their own and other students' experiences relative to injustice or intolerance; how schools should address this type of behavior; barriers they experience in school; and how to remove barriers in these areas. New American families discussed goals for their children's education, what they need to achieve those goals, what might stand in the way of those goals or isn't working now and the most important things that BSD needs to focus on over the next four years to help ALL students reach their goals.

In June, 350+ BSD faculty and staff reviewed input from previous forums, and made recommendations on prevalent issues, mission, vision and core beliefs, in order to determine District priorities which will be used to inform an operational plan. Sample questions posed during the day included: What do these priorities mean in the daily lives of teachers/students? How do we ensure that the daily experiences of our students reflect District priorities?

After reviewing information and identifying trends using input from the earlier community forums, Board Members discussed mission, vision and core beliefs for the District.

### *Next Steps*

**Save the date!** On October 13<sup>th</sup>, we will invite the community to review the work done thus far, and to provide further input into the future of Burlington Schools.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and welcome back.



Yaw Obeng, Superintendent

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